

Decision Record  
Harney County Road Realignment Project  
Environmental Assessment OR-030-03-015  
Jordan Field Office, Vale District  
Bureau of Land Management

This Decision Record documents my decision to select the proposed action for implementation of the Harney County Road Realignment Project. This alternative was analyzed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), OR-030-03-015. The EA is in conformance with the Southern Malheur Management Framework Plan (MFP) (Lands LD-9) (a-6), and the Proposed Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Final EIS of April 2001, Road Design and Maintenance (Appendix O, Best Management Practices – pg. 339).

Subsequent to the preparation of the EA, the publishing of a Legal Notice setting forth the EA's availability for public comment, posting to the Vale District internet site, and the Argus Observer Newspaper, no comments were received.

My decision to select the proposed action is based upon the interdisciplinary analysis contained in EA-030-2003-015, as well as the supporting record and field review.

Decision Rationale

The proposed project provides for public transportation for school buses, farm related traffic; government access as well as tourist related traffic and will be an all weather facility to be used 12 months of the year. This project supports BLM's policy to comply with and manage right-of-way use of the public lands through a system of designated right-of-way corridors. The proposed action will incorporate the following objectives: 1) reduce disturbance to soils and vegetation on BLM managed land and limit the potential for the invasion of noxious weeds, 2) maintain or increase public safety on BLM managed public lands, 3) use existing right-of-way corridors where possible, and 4) limit the impacts to and conflicts with existing permitted uses of the BLM managed public land. These are positive impacts to the overall human environment with few, if any, negative impacts. Further, no unique characteristics are involved, there are no highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks, and the project does not set a precedent for future actions that could have be significant, there will be no impacts to sites that could be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, no scientific, cultural or historic will be lost, and there will be no violation of any law under the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed project will have no effect on Prime/Unique Farmlands, Floodplains, Native American Religious Concerns, T&E Species, Hazardous or Solid Wastes, Water Quality, Wetlands, Riparian Zones, Energy and Mineral Development, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness or Environmental Justice. This plan meets none of the criteria for significance.

s/Jerry L. Taylor

May 29, 2003

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Authorized Official

Jerry L. Taylor, Jordan Field Office Manager

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Date:

